

**Testimony to the Legislative Appropriations Committee regarding Charter School Funding delivered by  
Common Ground High School parent Byrute Johnson on February 16, 2010**

To Honorable Chair Toni Harp and the Members of the Appropriations Committee:

As a parent of a freshman at Common Ground high school, I can see a total transformation in my daughter. Even though it's only been six months, she has flourished at Common Ground. My daughter is in a school that has given her a tremendous educational environment where she has many choices and is thriving as a student.

She truly enjoys getting up every day (on her own) and spends her whole day at Common Ground - and when I say all day, it's sometimes until 5:30. Not many high school students I know want to stay at school that long.

Common Ground students are taught the importance of being involved in their local community and being active in caring for the environment.

There are not enough great things to say about Common Ground. Excellent, caring teachers and an excellent administration work together to create an excellent, supportive learning environment. Common Ground is truly a great school and it's the right choice for any child. Please do everything that you can to ensure that Common Ground and other charter schools like Common Ground are funded equitably.

Thank you for your time and attention.